The Southern PATRIOT

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MAJOR PARTIES DEAF TO PETITIONS FROM "DECENT" SOUTH

The major political parties were given notice that the **Decent** South is demanding greater federal protection of the civil rights of minority groups.

Identical petitions were sent to the Democratic and Republican platform committees, declaring that "the federal government has a clear duty to guarantee to all Southerners the rights and privileges of full citizenship."

Signing the documents were residents from all of the 13 Southern states—550 backing the Democrat appeal, 603 the Republican. (Late arrival of some signatures accounted for the differing totals.)

The petitions outlined the current Southern scene as follows:

Disturbing events have occurred recently in the South which put in peril the basic freedoms of great numbers of the region's people. Southern legislatures and state courts have harassed and proscribed eminently respectable organizations. Prospective voters have been denied the right to register or have been stricken from the rolls, without just reason. At least one state and one major city have set up secret police and hired spies. A Catholic archbishop has been defamed and threatened, and numerous clergy of other faiths driven from their pastorates. Untold others — teachers, journalists, lawyers, merchants—can no longer earn livelihoods in their native land. And some have lost their lives.

These deeds of terror and intimidation are the work of official and unofficial groups who boast openly of their determination to thwart the highest tribunal in the country—the U. S. Supreme Court. In the name of States Rights they deny the basic rights of citizens. They say they intend to nullify the decisions which have outlawed segregation in public schools.

But whatever the validity of the doctrine of States Rights, it cannot be made an excuse for insurrection. It cannot be interposed against rights guaranteed to all American citizens by the constitution of the United States.

The federal government has a clear duty to guarantee to all Southerners the rights and privileges of full citizenship in a free and democratic society. This requires a free ballot, a free church, and a citizenry free to organize and to speak out without fear of reprisal.

As a response to this obligation, the petitions urged that the following five-point program be pledged by the parties:

1. Ensure the enforcement of decrees of the federal courts issued for the protection of American citizens.

2. Enact legislation implementing the Supreme Court decision on integration in the public schools. Pledge federal assistance—financial, technical and moral—to local officials in the task of bringing their educational systems into compliance.

3. Take steps to ensure every qualified

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Boycotts Hold, Despite All-Out Pressure

The passing of summer finds the boycotts in Montgomery, Ala., and Tallahassee, Fla., still holding solid against the harshest weapons government officials and latter-day Klansmen could bring to bear.

Circuit Judge Walter B. Jones did not rest content at outlawing the NAACP in Alabama. (See SP for June.) This jurist proceeded to demand the membership lists of the organization and when they were denied, he assessed a $100,000 fine for contempt of court.

At press time word came of the dynamiting of Rev. Robert Graetz's home in Montgomery. He is a white Lutheran minister with a Negro congregation.

On Aug. 4, two effigies were hanged on a gallows in the heart of Montgomery's business district. One was labeled "NAACP," the other, presumably a white man, bore the banner: "I talked intergration (sic)." Police allowed the display to stand for more than an hour.

Perhaps the most disturbing aspect of the show was the placard on the gallows which read: "Built by Union Labor." And some of those who built it drove off in a station wagon bearing the insignia "Alabama Labor News."

This display serves to indicate that the WCC's have made substantial inroads among Southern unions. And bizarrely enough, some of the union men who belong to the Councils think that they are helping the cause of organized labor.

They acknowledge the anti-union records of the WCC leadership, but contend that "since we union boys have gone along with them on the race question,

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570 SCHOOL DISTRICTS INTEGRATED

There will be at least 300,000 Negro children attending integrated schools in Southern and border states this fall. Desegregation has now occurred in 570 school districts.

Last year only 260,000 Negroes were offered unsegregated educational facilities.

However, 4,000 districts in the South remain Jim Crow.

In higher education, 105 of 208 tax-supported institutions that were formerly all-white now have a total of 2,000 Negro students.

These figures are based on surveys by the New York **Times** and the **Southern School News.**

In Louisville, Ky., the full-scale integration of public schools slated for this month got a preview when DuPont Manual High School dropped racial barriers in its summer term.

No incidents were reported, no police guards were needed, and the principal declared, "This is the normal way of doing things, and we don't have to worry about these fine young Americans."

At the same time the white and Negro teachers associations agreed to merge into "one unified professional organization with equal rights and privileges for all members."

In its annual convention in July the National Education Assn., which represents most of the classroom teachers in the country, flinched at taking a definite stand on the integration issue. It heard claims that some 1,000 Negro teachers had lost their jobs in the South because of the merging of systems.

But Louisville's Supt. of Schools Omer Carmichael told the convention: "It's going to be rugged. But as far as I can determine, the best teacher, Negro or white, is going to get the job. You're going to have Negro teachers teaching white children. That is what the Supreme Court decision means and that is what we will do."

Parties Snub Pleas for Firm Rights Stand

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citizen the right to vote and to participate in all civic endeavors without threat or hindrance.

4. Revise procedures whereby citizens whose rights have been abused can seek redress.

5. Support revision of the Senate rule on cloture, "restoring majority rule and removing the chief roadblock to civil rights legislation."

Dr. James A. Dombrowski, executive director of the SCEF, presented the petition to the Democratic platform body in Chicago on Aug. 9. He and the leader of the Montgomery bus boycott, Rev. M. L. King, were the only two Southerners to speak in behalf of a strong rights plank. According to reliable report, other advocates were kept away by heavy, hostile pressure; the party did not want to hear the case of democracy presented too strongly.

Typical of the hush-hush treatment accorded civil-rights advocates, the only report on the petition to be found in the daily press was embodied in a smearing speech by a Louisiana Dixiecrat. According to the New Orleans **Times-Picayune** of Aug. 16, Congressman F. Edward Hebert urged the Southern states to withhold their electoral votes in order to force the Presidential election into the House of Representatives. And:

"Of the civil rights plank in the Democratic platform, Hebert said its chief architect was Eleanor Roosevelt.

"And a 'potent witness' before the party's platform committee, Hebert continued, was Dr. James A. Dombrowski, New Orleanian who is the executive director of the Southern Conference Educational Fund and who was investigated by a committee of Congress for alleged Communist activities."

The Democratic pledge did not put much pressure on the Republicans. The party of FDR contented itself with admitting that the Supreme Court had made important decisions, that the court's ruling is the law of the land, and that "force" should not be used in connection with carrying out the school desegregation decrees.

This pallid pronouncement did not say what kind of "force" should be avoided—moral force, force of law, or armed force. Some have sought to twist the statement to make it say that force should not be used either to gain compliance or to resist it.

But this is hollow quibbling. The Democratic plank is a true one—true, that is, in its reflection of the sorry, cynical fumbling of the issue by both parties. Witness, for example the fate of the most recent civil rights bill to reach Congress. We have reprinted an autopsy of this parliamentarian murder in the columns below.

HOW CONGRESS STRANGLED RIGHTS BILL

A great deal of interest in the Democratic and Republican conventions centered on what the parties would say on the subject of civil rights and school desegregation.

Party leaders spent a great time searching for proper words—in sharp contrast with their apathy and outright truculence when last there was a chance to do something about the matter.

The fate of HR 627 in the 84th Congress illustrates the point.

HR 627, introduced by Representative Cellar of New York, sought establishment of a bi-partisan commission to investigate civil rights violations; creation of a civil rights division of the Justice Dept., and authority for the U.S. Attorney General to bring suits in federal courts for injunctive or other relief in instances of infringements on civil rights.

The bill was sat on for months by Rep. Howard Smith of Va., chairman of the House Rules Committee. Later in the session a bi-partisan coalition headed by Representative Bolling of Mo. pried the bill loose.

On June 23 the House approved it by a vote of 279 to 126.

Voting with the majority were 168 Republicans, including Baker of Tenn., Curtis of Mo., Devereaux and Hyde of Md. Among the 25 Republicans in opposition were Brayhill and Pott, Va.; Cramer, Fla.; Jones, N. C.; Siler, Ky.; Belcher, Okla, and Short, Mo.

Of the 111 Democrats backing the bill, only one was a Southerner: Perkins of Ky. Fourteen were from border states: five from W. Va. (Burnside, Byrd, Kee, Hollahan, Staggers), six from Mo. (Bolling, Cannon, Christopher, Hull, Karsten, Sullivan), three from Md. (Friedel, Garmatz, Lankford).

One Northern Democrat, Tumulty of N.J., joined with 101 Southern Democrats in voting against the bill.

When the bill went to the Senate, it admittedly faced slim chance of passage. But President Eisenhower did not speak out in its favor nor exert pressures of the type that worked successfully in the case of the beleaguered foreign aid pro-

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BOYCOTTS FIRM DESPITE FOES

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they'll change their minds on the 'right-to-work' law next time it comes up for repeal in the legislature."

Judge Jones bears the nickname "Injunction" Jones in union circles because of his numerous bench rulings outlawing picketing. But one of the WCC-unionists avows that Jones told him, "If you keep sticking with us on this, you won't be calling me 'Injunction' Jones any more."

Fortunately, not all union members have fallen prey to such delusions. A movement to set up a "Southern Federation of Labor" sprang out of the University of Alabama riots. Its promoters tried to capitalize on local resentment of outside criticism.

This group captured one or two locals in Birmingham, but last month a well-publicized region-wide assembly of labor "secessionists" drew only 200 delegates.

Further, one of the top secessionists has been brought up on charges by the painters union which term his activities "harmful to the organization." This promoter obtained a union card, presumably to qualify as a "worker," although he has not been known to put in an hour's work at the craft.

In Tallahassee the leaders of the bus boycott have been harassed by police on petty traffic matters and, in one instance, denied renewal of auto insurance and gasoline credit cards.

After a suspension of service, the bus-line resumed operation on August 2 with a new lure to Negro patronage: Negro drivers on routes running through predominantly Negro neighborhoods. But the Rev. C. K. Steele, president of the Inter-Civic Council, declared that "the crux of the problem is around the seating arrangements for passengers on the bus, and so far, that seating arrangement remains the same as before. . . . Our people voted that they will not be herded like cattle to the rear of the bus, though driven by smiling Negro drivers."

A "Ride the Bus" solicitation among the white community netted only $800, although 1,000 civic workers took part in the canvas. And a Chamber of Commerce official, dutifully waiting for a bus, complained that three of his friends stopped and offered him rides.

There is no question that the Tallahassee boycott caused Florida legislators, with "moderate" Gov. Leroy Collins' full approval, to pass various gimmick laws designed to "slow down" integration. Chief of these was a measure giving school boards power to assign pupils to schools "for which they are best

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Interracial Cooperative Farm Under Attack in Georgia

Koinonia Farm, Rt. 2, Americus, Ga., is a cooperative venture guided by a brilliant young Baptist Minister, Clarence Jordan.

It has a record of financial success—but even more impressive is its human achievement: there are no racial bars to membership in the farm group.

The farm met no difficulties in the community until Reverend Jordan assisted two Negroes make application to the University of Georgia business school in Atlant. (As part of the entrance requirments, each applicant must secure the endorsement of a University of Georgia graduate. Jordan, as an alumnus, signed.)

Subsequent events are described in the newsletter from Koinonia reprinted below:

On Monday night, July 23, Koinonia Farm's roadside market was dynamited. About 10:15 p.m. a car evidently came into the drive-way, tossed 10 to 15 sticks of dynamite toward the building, and sped away. No one was in the building at the time, and there were no eye-witnesses.

The charge exploded about three feet from the front of the building, making a hole in the ground about a foot deep and two or three feet across. The explosion was heard for miles around, and many people quickly gathered. The sheriff and a local Ga. Bureau of Investigation agent came to the scene immediately.

The front of the building was severely damaged and part of the roof was blown off. A large refrigerated meat display case, a deep freezer and other fixtures were wrecked and the whole place showered with splintered glass. The total damage was estimated at $3,000. There was insurance on the property, but the insurance agents just informed us that losses from such causes were not covered by the policy. Despite this, we hope to repair the damage as quickly as possible and continue business.

Today our mail was stacked with notices of cancellation of insurance on our other buildings and equipment. The following companies cancelled: Great American Insurance Co. (2 policies); American Aviation & General; Progressive Fire Insurance Co. (2 policies); and Pacific National Fire Insurance Co. There had been previous cancellations by Cotton States Mutual and others. This leaves us without any insurance whatsoever. Unless we can get some, it will be impossible for us to maintain or secure credit with the bank and others.

An editorial in the Americus **Times-Recorder** reflects what seems to be a typical reaction to the dynamiting. Captioned "Force and Coercion not Condoned," it stated: "The dynamiting of Koinonia Farm's roadside store on U.S. 19 south of Americus Monday night was a cowardly and regrettable affair. This community is not in sympathy with the program and policies of Koinonia Farms Inc., but we cannot and we don't believe a vast majority of our people can sanction the use of force and coercion, the very things that our Southland is being subjected to by the U. S. Supreme Court and various leaders and groups throughout the country today. There are other means that are more laudable and just as effective as coercion and force, in combating what one believes to be wrong."

No doubt cancellation of insurance is one of the "more laudable and effective means." Court injunctions are another.

During these very critical times, we are trying to ease the tension in the local community by running ads in the local paper in order to keep the truth about Koinonia before the people. As to be expected, there are many terrible rumors which keep the people inflamed. We believe that a calm and loving statement of who and why we are is the best antidote. We thought you'd be interested in the kind of statement we're making so we're reprinting below the one that was issued last week.

AN OPEN LETTER FROM KOINONIA FARM

During the 14 years we have been in this county, we have made no public declaration of our principles and purposes. This has been largely due to the fact that we wanted no one to think that we were trying to force our ideas on them. We wanted simply to live our own lives under God.

We do not now wish to stir up controversy. But recent events, together with much false rumor, cause us to feel that the people of this country are entitled to the truth. We must speak, trusting that you will understand the spirit in which we speak.

Most of us are Southerners. All of us are trying to be honest followers of Christ.

He has taught us many things. One is that God is the Father of all those who, in whatever race or nation, believe in Him and walk according to His way. He said such believers were brothers (Matt. 23: 8). He prayed that they might be one in His fellowship (John 17:21). He taught

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WHY DIXIE WENT FOR KENNEDY

(The following editorial is reprinted from the Quint-City edition of LABOR'S DAILY. This newspaper, serving Davenport, Iowa, Rock Island, Ill., and surrounding cities, is sponsored by the International Typographical Union in behalf of union printers locked out in this area.)

The Deep South support of Sen. John Kennedy for Vice-President has been interpreted as indicating a decline of anti-Catholic feeling in Dixie. After all, these states were the ones to reject Al Smith on religious grounds in 1928.

But the facts of the Southern situation don't back up this assumption. Only recently, a high-ranking priest in Alabama declared that his church was suffering discrimination that was quiet and underhanded, but as bad as ever, all the same. The popular mayor of New Orleans, a Catholic, was defeated in his bid for governor this year, thus maintaining intact Louisiana's reputation for not having a Catholic governor in over a century. Similar taboos on elective offices exist in other states.

Where anti-Negro sentiment is strong—and it is now at a fever-pitch in many Southern communities—religious prejudice also flares, with Jews and Catholics being the targets, in about that order.

So why the support for Kennedy then? The type of politician presently in control down South has one hate greater than that he bears for Negroes, Jews, Catholics, or Yankees. That hate is for the white Southerner who refuses to play the sordid game of race-baiting and law-dodging. So when a situation arose where they could hurt the liberal Tennessean, these Bourbon gentlemen would have voted for a yellow fice dog against him, if the dog were the only other candidate.

Furthermore, there is a cynical side to these votes for Kennedy. They just didn't care who the party put up for Vice-President. If you could poll the hearts of these Southern racists, you would probably find that they expect Eisenhower to win and they want him to win. They want the Democrats to keep control of Congress, and themselves to remain high in the party councils. But they figure that with a Republican administration and a Democratic Congress, neither party will assume the responsibility for civil-rights legislation.

That's what happened in the 84th Congress and the Southerners want it to keep on happening until the Sewanee River freezes over.